

UF – IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2008  
Larson Dairy Science Building

Individuals present: Brenda Rogers, Sherry Larkin, Monica Elliott (Polycom), Jerry Culen, David Holmes, Lynda Spence (guest), David Norman, Judy Butterfield

David Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Dr. Cheek will call in at 1:30 PM. He is on his way to Tallahassee.

Approval of minutes from the 20 Feb 2008 Faculty Council meeting – Brenda Rogers moved to approve, Jerry Cullen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no corrections or additions.

David reviewed the meeting agenda: We need to replace Jim Selph on the Faculty Senate. David will send Paul Willis four names for consideration. We also need to name two individuals to the UF (Senate) Budget council. Al Wysocki (the current council chair) and David Mulkey are rotating off; both are from the Food and Resource Economics Department. The university Provost serves on this committee and they meet only a couple of times each year. Our suggestions to be forwarded to Al are Tim White, Ramesh Reddy, and Mike Sweat.

Dr. Arrington is scheduled for the April 15 Faculty Council meeting at 3pm - need to generate questions for him:

- Extension Symposium – has been seen as a positive experience, there is concern with having to cancel. Discussion followed on having some of the scheduled presentations for the symposium to still take place that week via other methods. One suggestion was possibly each of the goal teams may be able to have a day or portion of a day for their presentations/trainings. It was noted the guest speaker may deliver his/her presentation via Polycom. It is expected that more information will be forthcoming from the Extension Dean's office regarding potential scheduling for seminars.
- How does Larry interact with the counties? How do we prevent Extension from being absorbed into other county departments? His observation of his visit with South Central administrators in regard to the state's role in helping counties understand the value of the Extension partnership.
- View of Florida budget compared to other southern region states – breakdown in the budget from the federal funding vs. state funding vs. county funding.

David will send these questions/issues to Dr. Arrington prior to the April meeting.

Discussion followed on selection possible individuals to be nominated for a three year term on the Faculty Senate. David went over the names of those currently serving as Senators and also who will be rotating off of the Faculty Council at the end of this year. The following list was generated, and four names will be sent to Paul Willis for Dr. Cheek's consideration to ask if they would put their names in for nomination: 1) Gail Kauwell ( FSHN); 2) Phil Koehler (Entomology); 3) Martha Monroe (Forestry); 4) Mary Williams (Nassau Co. CED). Other names suggested were Bob Hochmuth, Laurie Trenholm, Debbie Murie, Barbara Hughes, Anita Neal, Audrey Norman, and Mark Hostetler. These nominations will go out in May.

Dr Cheek joined the meeting by phone at approximately 1:30 PM. He reported on the following:

1. Legislative – moving through with budget cutting strategy. There will be 2-3 bills addressing the budget in this session - 1.8% cut is probably the first round, and will cut

to approximately 4% in second round – effective July 1. Money will be given back centrally to the state – no additional call back from units. Still uncertain as to how much it will be - strategy is to cut no more than they have to but monitor the budget situation within the state – maybe 4 to 6% in addition to what we have already given back. Question was asked: “How are we with the situation?”– need to be careful as to the information given out – more letters were sent than what anyone thought. All of the communication is having an impact, but we do not know the decision on the contemplation of a differential cut for IFAS. Jerry Culen asked: – the billion or so dollars set aside for rainy day – what is the status of this? There is a hesitation to use this rainy day fund - trying to get by without using funds but may need to dip into them. Governor Crist has held back 4% the first 2 quarters – we may not know anything regarding the severity of the budget cuts until first week of May.

2. Status of budget cuts at UF – President Machen has sent a letter to each unit requesting a cut of 6% - that is equivalent to \$10,000,000, and is in addition to \$7,000,000 we were cut in October, 2007. Total of over \$17 million this year – this would be more than a 10% cut. First cut in October took 40 faculty positions that were vacant – we do not have the vacant positions to work with in this next cut. Some units within IFAS will be hit harder than others – no department will go untouched. However, we are still looking at some critical positions that must be filled – across the board – county offices, RECs, etc. that need to be filled to remain operational. Will need to implement cuts by July 1, 2008 – will need to have balanced budget by July 1, 2009.
3. Five people from the agriculture community had a meeting with President Machen on Friday, March 7 to discuss the budget situation. They were clear they did not represent all of the constituents of IFAS. Those attending this meeting were John Hoblick, President of Florida Farm Bureau; Jim Handley, Executive VP, Florida Cattlemen’s Association; Mike Stewart, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; Mike Sparks, Florida Citrus Mutual; and Ben Bolusky, Executive VP, FNGLA. Dr. Cheek was in attendance and said it was a very positive meeting.
4. Dr. Cheek was in Washington, DC last week – was asked to give a “state of the university” report – he reported on the positive – and that county funding is up to \$40 million – highest it has ever been. Our grants and contracts summed to \$95.3 million, our endowment is highest it has ever been (approaching \$100,000,000) for IFAS. Need to focus on the positive. Eventually we will come out of this slump and IFAS must be positioned to move ahead in our various mission areas.
5. Jerry Culen raised a question about reports that transfer numbers from community colleges may be limited. Dr. Cheek reported that CALS coordinators met with a representative from Provost’s office. Discussion followed on the freeze of students coming from the community colleges, what impact this will have, and how it will hurt the enrollment of CALS. We need transfer students to fill the land grant mission and to fill our classes – approximately 40% of CALS students are transfers. President Machen addressed the issue of the importance of these students to CALS to a group of industry leaders. Dr. Cheek suggested Kirby Barrick, or if not available, Elaine Turner to attend the April Faculty Council meeting to discuss the issue of transfer students to CALS – need to possibly involve Senators. Other colleges such as Engineering appreciate transfer students and their importance to UF. David will see if Dean Barrick and Senate President Rick Yost are able to attend the April meeting to discuss the transfer student

issue. Jerry will check with Dr. Turner on the time line regarding decision about transfer students.

6. Other items Dr. Cheek addressed included hosting a dinner for current Faculty Council members and their guests after the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The council thanked him for this. More details will follow.

Status on Constitution Committee – Bill Lindberg has done excellent job – will have a working group meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> to finalize the constitution. Hope to present a final draft to the council at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was suggested a copy be sent out ahead of time to Faculty Council members for their perusal. Hopefully the newly revised constitution can get out to IFAS faculty in May - will need to discuss time frame for getting it out and how to filter the comments.

Judy gave update on Senate Meeting – just reiterating what has already been discussed that all units will take their share of cuts, some more severe because of the size of the department.

It was suggested to try to schedule Cindy Littlejohn for June for a state budget wrap up.

Brenda Rogers discussed that DROP was becoming a statewide concern – there is a movement to eliminate DROP – are individuals taking advantage of the program?

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Submitted by Judy Butterfield.